



# COLORADO WOLF & WILDLIFE CENTER

OCTOBER 2023 · CONSERVATION · EDUCATION · PRESERVATION



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The contents of the material we include in our newsletter does not necessarily reflect the views of CWWC. We collect information from other organizations, the web, news feeds, and/or other sources. We choose articles that are in the related field of education and conservation.







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| SOCIAL MEDIA HAPPENINGS |

Stay up to date with the animals at CWWC, wolves and wildlife in the news, and advocacy opportunities.

-  **Subscribe to our YouTube Channel: ColoradoWolf&WildlifeCenter** We post videos of the training and enrichment we are providing for our animals, and educational vlogs about wolves.
-  **Follow us on Facebook: Colorado Wolf and Wildlife Center** to get updates on new YouTube video postings, read feel good stories from other wolf/wildlife organizations, and learn about new wildlife findings in the research field.
-  **Follow us on Instagram: @cowolfcenter** to see pictures of our beautiful animals, stories of what we are doing around the center, and ways you can help wild wolf populations. Keep your eye on our story for fun videos of the day to day lives of our wolves and keepers.
-  **Follow us on Twitter: @Wolves\_at\_CWWC** to see photos of our animals, read fun facts, and hear about events happening at CWWC.
-  **Follow us on TikTok: @cowolfcenter** for the videos you won't see on our other social media pages.

*We hope to give you something to look forward to every day!*

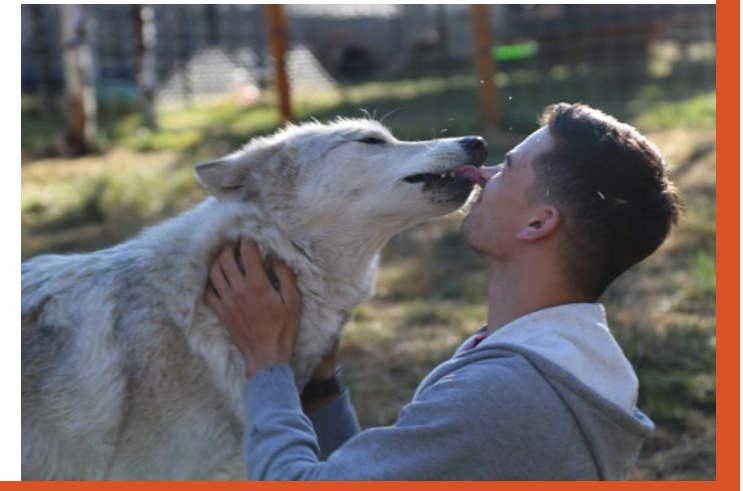


**Costa Rica - Shirley & Darlene**  
Helping the pet over population

# Meet a Wolf



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# Natural Resources Board approves DNR's wolf management plan

DNR and GOP lawmakers have been at odds over the agency's approach to wolf management

Danielle Kaeding | Wisconsin Public Radio | October 25, 2023



The Natural Resources Board has approved the DNR's wolf management plan, which does not set a population goal for wolves in Wisconsin. *Photo: dalliedee (CC BY)*

With a majority of new members, the policy-setting board for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources unanimously approved the agency's contentious wolf management plan Wednesday.

While it is supported by conservation and environmental groups, the plan has drawn criticism from GOP lawmakers over its lack of a statewide population goal.

Last week, Senate Republicans advanced a bill that would force the agency to set a statewide target for wolves on the same day they fired four of Gov. Tony Evers' appointees to the board. Evers immediately appointed four new members to the board, which signed off on the plan Wednesday with minor changes to harvesting wolves in one subzone.

The last wolf plan approved in 1999 and revised in 2007 set a population goal of 350 wolves. DNR data shows the animal's population has grown to nearly 1,000 wolves and appears to be stabilizing.

The DNR said its plan would provide more flexibility in

managing wolves if they're delisted as an endangered species. The plan aims to maintain numbers between 800 and 1,200 wolves.

DNR Large Carnivore Specialist Randy Johnson told the board the range gives opposing sides reassurance that the agency isn't looking to drastically increase or reduce the population. He added the plan sets a solid scientific foundation that would give federal wildlife regulators confidence in the state's ability to manage wolves if the animal is delisted.

## Opponents say wolf population goal should stay at 350

Some hunting and farm groups expressed opposition to the plan, including the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation. Tyler Wenzlaff, the federation's national affairs director, said the DNR's population range only serves as guidance and could be disregarded at any time. The federation, along with Kansas-based Hunter Nation, want to see the state maintain its existing goal of 350 wolves in order to reduce wolf conflicts with livestock and

hunting dogs.

"This is a goal. It's not a cap," Wenzlaff said. "It is something that we can get to over a number of management seasons."

DNR data shows a tiny fraction of Wisconsin's more than 64,000 farms have been affected by wolf depredations, with only 18 farms affected during the most recent monitoring period. The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel reported that's the lowest number of farms with wolf conflicts in 15 years. The Associated Press reported the DNR has recorded 67 confirmed or probable wolf attacks on domestic animals so far this year, up from 49 in 2022.

Chris Vaughn, Wisconsin state director of Hunter Nation, said the group would recommend a quota of up to 450 wolves if the wolf is delisted. It's currently illegal to kill or hunt wolves after a federal judge restored protections last year. State law mandates a wolf season when the animal isn't listed as endangered.

Some residents like Steve Suchomel of Medford feel the plan discriminates against rural northern Wisconsin residents, saying it's a safety issue.

"People are afraid to let their children play outside in wolf territory, especially let them play unsupervised in rural areas," Suchomel said. "People are not hiking without a firearm."

Cynthia Samels, who lives in the northern Wisconsin town of Iron River, feels otherwise.

"I am out in the woods either in the national forest or public lands almost every weekend either by myself or with my dogs," Samels said. "I have absolutely zero fear of encountering wolves."

In its most recent reporting period, the DNR verified two incidents of risks to human safety with wolves observed multiple times during the day near homes. The DNR said there's never been a documented attack on humans in the state.

A 2022 survey by the DNR shows most Wisconsin households that responded support a population larger than 350 wolves, including in the wolf's range.

## Supporters say DNR plan is a step forward

Animal rights, conservation and environmental groups have said the existing goal of 350 wolves is vastly outdated and not based on the best available science. Sierra Club Wisconsin Director Elizabeth Ward said the revised plan is "a good first step in restoring sustainable management" of wolves.

But Paul Collins, state director for Animal Wellness Action,

accused DNR staff and board members of giving more weight to input from hunters, farmers and rural residents.

He said he couldn't support the plan and its unofficial cap of 1,200 wolves. Collins voiced distrust in the DNR's ability to enforce its plan after the 2021 wolf hunt. In February that year, hunters killed 218 wolves in under three days. They killed their share and Ojibwe tribes' portion of a 200-wolf quota.

"I frankly do not have much hope in this agency or trust to make sure that such a slaughter will not happen again," Collins said.

Wisconsin's tribes voiced some support for the plan despite their opposition to hunting wolves, including Joe Miller, a tribal council member with the Stockbridge-Munsee Community.

"There's got to be compromise. There's got to be concessions made to look out for our creature relative brothers and sisters that do not have a voice," Miller said. "Indian country will always be the voice for them."

Tribal leaders said the animal is culturally significant to their tribes, explaining their fate is intertwined with wolves. They advocated for greater protection of wolf dens and adequate buffers to prevent hunting near their reservations. The DNR's plan added ways to address local concerns that include harvesting wolves near tribes' boundaries and focusing hunts in areas with problem wolves.

The DNR's revised plan includes six updated wolf management zones that would set harvest quotas to maintain, grow or decrease wolves within those zones when the wolf isn't under federal protection.

The board also unanimously approve harvest regulations tied to the plan. The DNR had been relying on an emergency rule after Republicans passed a 2012 law mandating a wolf hunt.

The regulations reduce the time to register wolf kills from 24 hours to eight hours after harvest, as well as issue zone-specific tags. Dog training to hunt wolves would also only be allowed when wolf seasons are held in line with state law, and training would end in each zone as they're closed to harvest. Hunters also wouldn't be allowed to damage wolf dens.

The board also approved changes to provisions on wolf depredation that include providing more authority to landowners to restrict the use of dogs by hunters to remove wolves on private property. Another change also seeks to potentially speed up payments for wolf attacks on livestock or dogs.

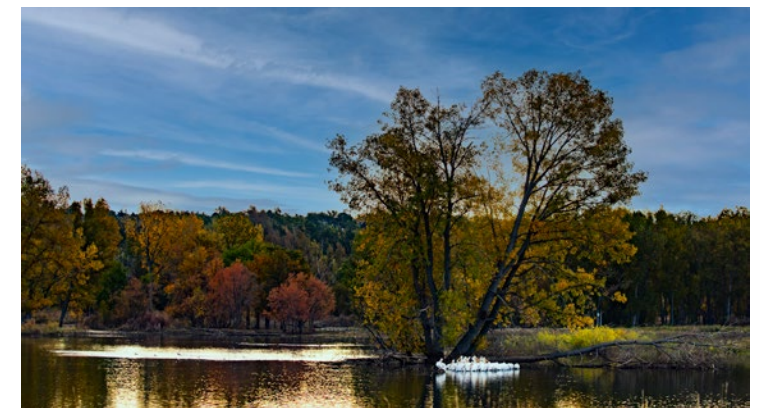


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THE RED WOLF IS NEARLY EXTINCT IN THE U.S.



Bison at RM Arsenal  
Photos by Carol Vogel



Pelicans Near Littleton, CO  
Photos by Carol Vogel

# Kill 'em or kill 'em: Gianforte tries to bully Yellowstone National Park into more bison slaughter

Darrell Ehrlick | Daily Montanan | October 19, 2023



Bison walking through deep snow near Tower Jct.; Jim Peaco; March 2008; Catalog #19246d; Original #IMG-8146 (National Park Service)

There are names for people who want to kill animals for revenge. In Montana, we call them “governor.”

To be fair, we also call them the head of the Fish, Wildlife and Parks and the leader of the state Department of Agriculture.

As much that can be said about the concept of killing animals to show the feds how tough you really are, I give Montana Gov. Greg Gianforte credit for one thing: He has clearly articulated exactly where he stands.

The Gianforte Administration is displeased with a Yellowstone National Park plan that would limit the bloodbath or slaughter of its wild bison that had the misfortune of being mowed down as they wandered out the park’s protective boundaries last winter, shot execution-style by hunters – and I use that term very loosely – sitting just beyond the park’s line.

For those of you unfamiliar, the bison in Yellowstone represent several notable things. They are among the last herd of free-roaming bison still in America,

protected by the confines and boundaries of the national park where they’re safe from hunters.

When they’re in the park, they are a massive tourist attraction, and park staff work the better half of the year keeping unwitting world visitors to the park away from the “fluffy cows,” which those same clueless tourists mistake as zoo animals that can be approached. But as nature would have it, these massive animals adopted by Congress as our national mammal are absolutely awful at reading maps, and they have a tendency to wander beyond the border of the park, especially in winter, looking for food.

And that’s where the trouble begins.

In some cases, the moment these bison step foot outside the park, they’re a target for slaughter. More than a thousand were killed like that this winter, reducing the herd drastically, and causing alarm among wildlife leaders and advocates.

Unhappy with festering gut piles from the “hunt,” even though there was no fair chase involved, the Gianforte administration isn’t satisfied with number of bison slaughtered.

It thinks there should be more.

To justify its position, the Gianforte Administration hides behind the mostly debunked concern that bison spread brucellosis to cattle — something that happens in reality more with elk, another species the Gianforte Administration likes to kill.

Yellowstone National Park officials want to build the bison herd numbers and avoid the debacle of last year. It’s a tough look for America’s premiere national park to have a trail of bison entrails right outside of the park, the remnants of its prized bison herd, killed unceremoniously. It kind of undercuts that whole preservation aspect of the park.

Meanwhile, the Gianforte Administration has decided that if Yellowstone National Park officials don’t give in to Montana officials’ demands, the state will remove a years-old policy of “tolerance zones” for the animals, making it even easier to kill bison that wander out of the park in search of food.

In other words, the state is willing to renege on its deal, and make the animals pay with their lives for

what is a rational policy decision by federal officials.

The tolerance zones provide just a little extra buffer for the animals who wander out of the park. They’re meant to give just a bit more protection to the beloved animals so they’re not killed the moment a hoof steps across the line.

Ironically, as America is tuning into the majestic documentary by celebrated cinematographer and documentarian Ken Burns on bison, the best example of the free-range animal is being threatened with more slaughter because of a petty political disagreement.

For an administration that can’t quit talking about the importance of business, the Gianforte administration seems to discount the role tourism plays in our state, the second largest sector. Why does it seem like the critters the Gianforte administration wants to hunt, trap, or slaughter are the same ones that draw hundreds of thousands to Treasure State every year? Think about it – grizzly bear, wolves, mountain lion and bison – all targets of what appears to be a literal bloodthirsty administration.

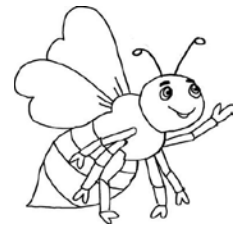
Either way, it seems like these majestic animals will pay with their blood. If the park officials stand firm on their plan to conserve bison numbers beyond what Montana leaders want, they’ll be slaughtered. And, if Yellowstone National Park officials cave into the state’s demands, more bison will be “harvested,” the fancy term for slaughtered.

Montanans have become accustomed to this sort of testosterone overdrive. This has nothing to do with hunting and the ethics of fair chase, which I respect and support. Instead, this is a policy being driven by a leader who has been ticketed for his own hunting missteps, and a man who sees nothing wrong with “hunting” a wolf that was trapped and likely injured for his own pleasure, if such a word can even be used.

For an administration and leader who likes to crow so much about the sanctity of life, threatening to kill animals as political payback seems like an odd way to show respect for it.

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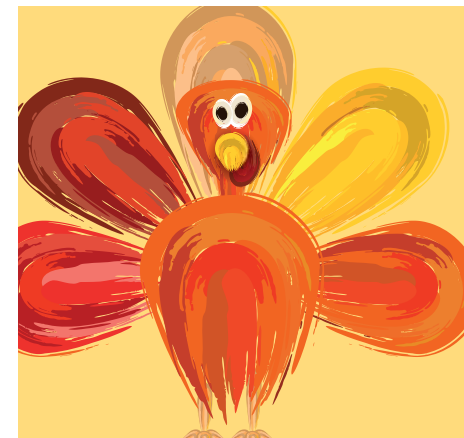
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Pollinator  
Moth  
Nectar  
Garden  
Agriculture

Bee  
Bat  
Pollen  
Reproduction

Butterfly  
Flower  
Native Plant  
Pesticide

Hummingbird  
Fruit  
Protection  
Environment



ANNUAL THANKSGIVING DAY  
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We will be feeding our wolf, coyote, and fox families.  
Watch them enjoy their turkey dinners.

(No turkeys will be alive or harmed with this event)

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 23RD | 9-11AM**



\$40 · 12 and older | \$20 · ages 6-11

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**COLORADO WOLF & WILDLIFE CENTER**

wolfeducation.org



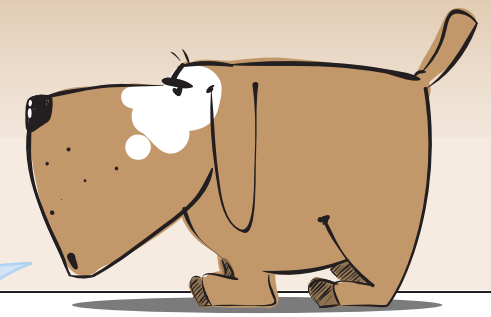
# Adoption corner

## TCRAS

Teller County Regional Animal Shelter  
tcrascolorado.org · 719.686.7707

## SLVAWS

San Luis Valley Animal Welfare Society  
slvaws.org · 719.587.woof (9663)



**[ NOTE - Our shelter is still open for adoptions, but we are asking that you call ahead and make an appointment before coming in to the shelter - 719-686-7707. ]**

### **NASH »**

Nash has had quite the adventure in his short life. Nash is a super adventures boy, who loves to play fetch, snuggle with his person. He does well with other cats. Nash is an indoor only kitty and is ready for his forever home. Nash has been staying with a foster home and has informed us that he is super loving and sweet.



### **« KING**

I have gone through a lot of great training while I have been at TCRAS, and they had so much confidence in me they sent me to a board a train facility for two weeks, and I did amazing!! I am looking for someone who will continue my education and help me learn new and exciting things. I enjoy playing with dogs when we have proper introductions and a big yard to play in. I will need some time to adjust to a new place, but I promise to be a good boy and give it my all!

### **SATIVA »**

Sativa is a sweetheart and a little shy at adoption fairs, which she has attended only twice. Remember, we are in a quiet rural area. She is from that area. She had been hit by a vehicle a few years ago. The broken bone has healed. She plays vigorously with her puppies!



### **« CLOVER & SMOKEY**

Smokey and his sister Clover are sweethearts Golden Doodles. They want to go home together. They are about 1 1/2 years old. Neutered, spayed, all vacc's, chipped.

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11:00am - 3:00pm